

---

# REGI News

---

*Newsletter from the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development*

*VII Legislature N. 17 - 19 January 2011*



**Meeting on**  
**Wednesday 26 January 2011**  
**15.00 - 18.30**  
**and**  
**Thursday 27 January 2011**  
**9.00 - 12.30**

**ASP 3 G 3**

*Legal disclaimer*

The items contained herein are drafted by the REGI Secretariat and are provided for general information purposes only. In particular, the content of Part I is merely indicative and subject to changes.

The Newsletter may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organizations. The REGI Secretariat does not necessarily endorse the views expressed on these websites.



## **In Focus**

- ❖ [Exchange of views with Mr Tamás Fellegi, Hungarian Presidency](#)
- ❖ [Exchange of views with Mr Johannes Hahn, Commissioner on Regional Policy](#)
- ❖ [Votes](#)
  - [European Year for Active Ageing 2012 \(Lambert Van Nistelrooij's opinion\)](#)
  - [Policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable EU after 2013 \(Constanze Krehl's opinion\)](#)
  - [EU strategy on Roma inclusion \(Andrey Kovatchev's opinion\)](#)

### **INDEX**

#### **PART I** **26-27 January Meeting**

1. [2010 Report on the Implementation of the Cohesion Policy programmes for 2007-2013](#)
2. [A Single Market for Enterprises and Growth](#)
3. [Europe, the world's n° 1 tourist destination](#)
4. [Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries](#)
5. [2009 discharge: EU General Budget, Section III, Commission](#)
6. [Exchange of views with Mr Tamás Fellegi, HU Presidency](#)
7. [Exchange of views with Mr Johannes Hahn, Commission on Regional Policy](#)
8. [Report on the visit of REGI delegation to Romania](#)
9. [European Year for Active Ageing 2012](#)
10. [Policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable EU after 2013](#)
11. [EU strategy on Roma inclusion](#)
12. [5th Cohesion Report and the Strategy for the post 2013 Cohesion policy](#)

**Date of next meeting:**

**Monday 28 February 2011**  
**15.00 - 18.30**

**Brussels**

*Comments and subscriptions at*  
[regi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:regi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)

#### **PART II** **9 December Meeting**

1. [Exchange of views with Mr Johannes Hahn, Commissioner on Regional Policy, on latest developments in Cohesion Policy](#)
2. [Presentation of an external study on "The Inter-relationship between the Structural Funds and the Provision of Services of General Interest and Services of General Economic Interest, and the Potential for Cross-Border Service Delivery"](#)
3. [Policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013](#)

#### **PART III** **Other news**

[Chair's participation on events](#)  
[ESPON news](#)  
[Info from the Library](#)

#### **Useful Internet links**

[EP Library - Info on items related to regional development](#)  
[OEIL - The Legislative Observatory](#)  
[Regional Policy Inforegio](#)  
[EUR-Lex](#)  
[Committee of the Regions](#)  
[EP studies Website](#)  
[REGI Website](#)



## ***PART I***

*Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI Committee meeting on 26 and 27 January 2011*

The following items will be discussed as foreseen in the [draft agenda](#). Please note that most committee documents (working documents, draft reports, etc. are available at our website [REGI](#) .

### **1. Report 2010 on the implementation of the Cohesion Policy programmes for 2007-2013 (Point 4 of the draft agenda)**

The Report is based on the Communication from the Commission “Cohesion Policy: Strategic Report 2010 on the implementation of the programmes 2007-2013” which allows for a first real analysis of the implementation process of the Operational Programmes. (Member States were required to provide the first national strategic reports at the latest by the end of 2009. The data presented in the Strategic Report is based on these national strategic reports.)

During the REGI meeting in January, the Rapporteur Mr Miroslav Mikolášik will present his draft report that, apart from some slight adaptations, follows the structure as proposed earlier in the working document.

In his draft, the Rapporteur welcomes the efforts made by Member States to draw up their national strategic reports, but is concerned of the delay experienced in many strategic investment areas. The draft report makes an attempt to establish the reasons behind the delay, to analyse the policy's response to the crisis and to put forward some recommendations with regard to the future of the strategic reporting exercise and the future of cohesion policy as well.

The debate will take place in the presence of a guest speaker, Mr Johannes Rossbacher, Director, ÖROK - Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning at the Federal Chancellery, who is invited to inform MEPs on the first experiences of strategic reporting from the point of view of a national authority.

<b><i>PROCEDURE</i></b>	<b><i>TIMETABLE</i></b>
Rapporteur: Miroslav Mikolášik	Consideration of working document: 27-28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Consideration of draft report: 26/01/2011
Procedure: 2010/2139 (INI)	Adoption REGI: 28/02/2011

## **2. A Single Market for Enterprises and Growth (Point 5 of the draft agenda)**

The EU's single market is the keystone of more than 60 years of European integration. The combined effect of the integration of the single market and enlargement means 2.75 million additional jobs and growth of 1.85% in the period 1992–2009. Nevertheless, the single market's potential has not been fully exploited. The Commission estimates that completing, deepening and making full use of the single market would potentially produce growth of about 4% of GDP over the next ten years. The Commission communication proposes therefore 50 measures with a view of completing, deepening and fully exploiting the single market.

Based on the communication the main committee, IMCO drafts three initiative reports corresponding to the three parts of the document. Due to the very tight timetable REGI decided to prepare one opinion on the report entitled "Single Market for Enterprises and Growth", but containing suggestions regarding all three IMCO reports.

The drafts person will present her draft opinion in which she welcomed the Commission's proposals, especially the planned assessment of the "Small Business Act", the reinforcement of the "Think Small First" principle, the proposed creation of a European Foundation Statute and the idea of single market forum. She underlined that regional policy implementation is key for the success of Europe 2020 strategy and the single market deepening. She called for a more user-friendly regional policy but also for stricter rules against "fund-shopping". She stressed that services are a unique source of development for the single market. In addition she asked for the creation of a European Association Statute.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Sophie Auconie	Consideration of draft opinion: 26/01/2011 (tbc)
Responsible administrator: Monika Makay	Planned deadline for Ams: 03/02/2011 (tbc)
Procedure: 2010/2277 (INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 28/02/2011 (tbc)
Lead Committee: IMCO Rapporteur: C.S.Busoi	Planned adoption IMCO: 7 March 2011 (tbc)
	Planned plenary: March II 2011

## **3. Europe, the World's n° 1 Tourist destination - A new political framework for tourism in Europe (Point 6 of the draft agenda)**

Tourism is an economic activity capable of generating growth and employment in the EU. With some 1.8 million businesses, primarily SMEs, employing approximately 5.2 % of the total workforce, the European tourism industry generates over 5 % of EU GDP, a figure which is steadily rising. Observing the trend over the last ten years, growth in employment in the tourism sector has almost always been more pronounced than in the rest of the economy. In addition, the EU remains the world's favourite tourist destination, with 370 million international tourist arrivals in 2008, or 40 % of arrivals around the world.

However, European tourism has faced difficult times. Firstly, the economic and financial crisis affecting all economies since 2008 has had a considerable effect on demand for tourism services. The difficulties have been aggravated by the eruption of the Eyjafjöll volcano. This difficult background for the tourism industry has highlighted a number of challenges which the European tourism sector must face.

With this Communication, the Commission intends to encourage a coordinated approach

for initiatives linked to tourism and define a new framework for action to increase its competitiveness and its capacity for sustainable growth. It therefore proposes a number of European or multinational initiatives aimed at achieving these objectives, drawing in full on the Union's competence in the field of tourism as introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

The draftsman will present his draft opinion in which he called for an integrated approach and efficient coordination of Community, national, regional and local policies. He also highlighted the importance of sustainable forms of tourism for local economies. He considered it necessary to counterbalance the effects of seasonal tourism by diversifying tourism. In addition he drew the attention to the necessity of a 'European label' and to the importance of the quality of employment, labour force mobility and combating of undeclared work.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Salvatore Caronna	Consideration of draft opinion: 26/01/2011 (tbc)
Responsible administrator: Monika Makay	Planned deadline for Ams: 03/02/2011
Procedure: 2010/2206(INI)	Planned adoption REGI: 28/02/2011 (tbc)
Lead Committee: TRAN Rapporteur: C. Fidanza	Planned adoption TRAN: March 2011 (tbc)
	Planned plenary:

#### **4. Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries (Point 7 of the draft agenda)**

The Committee on Culture and Education is preparing a report in reaction to the Commission's Green Paper: Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries that was published on 27.04.2010. Many recent studies have shown that cultural and creative industries ("CCIs") represent highly innovative companies with a great economic potential and are one of Europe's most dynamic sectors, contributing around 2.6 % to the EU GDP, with a high growth potential, and providing quality jobs to around 5 million people across EU-27. The Commission's Green Paper discusses ways for unlocking the untapped potential of the CCIs, especially in relation to the Europe 2020 Strategy with the themes such as ICTs as a driver of new business models for some CCIs, better matching the skills needs of CCIs, access to funding as a core barrier to growth for many businesses, etc.

In his draft opinion the draftsman acknowledges that throughout the Green Paper CCIs are recognised as a tool of local and regional development and points out that in most Member States local and regional authorities are responsible for sectors mentioned in the context of CCIs, especially culture, research, education, tourism and employment. Given the important role of CCIs infrastructures and facilities for the development of towns and cities as well as rural areas, he believes that cultural and creative strategies should be integrated in regional and local development strategies, in partnership between public authorities representing different policy areas and relevant civil society representatives. Moreover, it is perceived that culture and creative-based projects are capable of not only improving the structural conditions of lagging regions, but also of contributing directly to competitiveness and employment creation of all regions and the draftsman recommends that the Commission evaluate the relevance of Structural Funds as well as existing and future programmes in the relevant fields studies in order to design post-2013 cohesion policy that would enable releasing the full potential of the cultural sphere, and particularly that of the creative industries.



<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák (ECR)	Consideration of draft opinion: 26/01/2011
Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud	Deadline for tabling Ams:
Procedure: COM(2010)0183	Adoption REGI: 28/02/2011 (tbc)
Main committee: CULT	Adoption in CULT: 03/03/2011 (tbc)
	Plenary:

## **5. 2009 discharge: EU General Budget, Section III - Commission (Point 8 of the draft agenda)**

In his opinion Mr Geier points out that the complex rules which govern the management of ERDF and Cohesion Fund resources increase the risk of error, and that despite a notable decrease in the error rate, this was still at or around 5% in 2009. Among these errors infringement of the rules on public procurement are the most frequent cause of contention and he therefore presses for continued simplification and rationalisation of these rules. Turning to the responsibility of Member States to ensure good financial management in the context of shared management the draftsman notes that these latter have an obligation to provide sufficient information in their Annual Activity reports to the European Commission and asks the Commission to propose a penalty system in case information provided is insufficient to ensure legality and regularity. In the context of the revision of the Financial Regulation, he stresses the need to harmonise rules and management schemes for programmes under shared management and calls for better alignment of eligibility rules across various policies.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Constanze Jens Geier	Consideration of draft opinion: 26 January 2011
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Deadline for Ams: 04 February 2011
Procedure: 2012142(DEC)-REGI7/03678)	Adoption REGI: 28 February 2011
Lead Committee:CONT	Planned adoption in CONT 28/03/2011
	Planned plenary: May 2011

## **6. Exchange of views with Mr Tamás Fellegi, Minister of National Development acting as President-in-Office of the Council, on the work programme of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Point 9 of the draft agenda)**

The Presidency-in-Office of the EU, represented by M Tamás Fellegi, Minister of National Development, will present at the Committee on Regional Development the programme for the next six months in the field of regional and cohesion policy. After the presentation there will be a debate with the Members.

## **7. Exchange of views with Mr Johannes Hahn, Commissioner on Regional Policy, on latest developments in Cohesion Policy (Point 11 of the draft agenda)**

Following the debate held at the meeting on 9 December 2010 and due to the lack of time at that moment to tackle with all the issues at stake, Commissioner Hahn comes back to the

committee with a view to go on the ongoing debate on the 5th Cohesion Report and future actions on the EU cohesion Policy, including the recently adopted Danube Strategy.

## **8. Report on the visit of a REGI Committee delegation to Romania from 3 to 5 November 2010 (Point 12 of the draft agenda)**

Members of the Committee will exchange views on the final report, wrapping up the REGI delegation visit to Romania (Bucharest, Giurgiu, Arad, Timisoara) that took place 3-5 November 2010.

The main objective of the delegation was to seek to gain a better insight on the ground into the efficiency and effects of Structural Funds implementation in Romania - through visiting a series of concrete projects in Giurgiu, Arad and Timisoara and discussing with local, regional and national authorities on priority issues related to application of EU regional development policy and use of Structural Funds.

MEPs visited several projects co-financed by the Structural Funds, and also Pre-Accession programmes, had exchanges with local, regional and national authorities and various stakeholders, covering a wide range of topics, such as the Danube Strategy, problems with implementation in Romania, in particular the low absorption rate of the funds, administrative reform, etc.

Furthermore, local and regional actors had the possibility to address Members of the European Parliament with their concerns about the present framework and the possible future scenarios of Cohesion Policy, as well as to share their experience, and give direct feedback about implementation. They all agreed on the positive impact this policy has had on the development of their city and region.

## **9. European Year for Active Ageing (2012) (Point 13 of the draft agenda)**

The Draftsperson (Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij) in his draft opinion presented 14 amendments, aiming at the following:

- Ensuring that active ageing is firmly placed on the policy agenda, and highlighting the issue of intergenerational solidarity.
- Stressing the key role the European Year can play in supporting and leveraging local and regional projects and initiatives and ensuring that general awareness is raised in cities and regions of the Member States, as well as ensuring that initiatives will have a decentralised approach.
- Providing for accurate coordination, coherency and effectiveness through the setup of a strategic guidance on the implementation of the projects that are initiated in the light of the European Year.
- Raising awareness of the importance of ICT technologies development, which can effectively respond to the challenges of an ageing society.

Members of the Committee tabled 26 amendments to the draft opinion, stressing the importance of solidarity between generations, the specific aspects of outermost regions, highlighting the role of local and regional authorities and stressing that there should be more continuity between European years and their projects.

The vote on the amendments and on some compromises will take place the 27 January 2011.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Lambert van Nistelrooij	Exchange of views: 28/10/2010
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Consideration of draft opinion: 30/11/2010
Procedure: <a href="#">2010/0242(COD)</a> - REGI/7/03712	Adoption REGI: 26-27/01/2011
	Adoption in EMPL: 02-03/2011 (tbc)
	Plenary: 03-04/2011 (tbc)

## **10. Policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013 (Point 14 of the draft agenda)**

The REGI Committee held a first exchange of views on this file on its meeting of 27-28 October 2010, where the draft opinion was presented. The opinion contains 19 paragraphs and mainly insists on the fundamental place that Cohesion policy must be given in the future financial framework and on its key role in the context of the EU2020 Strategy.

The Rapporteur has also set some crucial priorities, namely in the fields of research and innovation, training, urban development, the social dimension and SMEs, while pointing out that any sectorialisation of policies will weaken the regions and demanding further transparency and efficiency in spending.

103 amendments were tabled to this opinion and a set of compromise amendments are under negotiation and may possibly be put forward before the vote on 26-27 January.

Amendments envisage either to clarify the priorities that should be supported through Cohesion policy instruments or to emphasise the position and role of the regions in general or regions with geographical or other specificities. The duration of the programming period is concerned by a number of amendments, being one of the points where Members tend to disagree the most.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Constanze Angela Krehl	
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho	Consideration of draft opinion: 9 December 2010
Procedure: 2010/2211(INI)	Deadline for Ams: 14 December 2010
Lead Committee: SURE	Adoption REGI: 27 January 2011
	Planned adoption in SURE: (TBC)
	Planned plenary: June 2011 (TBC)

## **11. The EU strategy on Roma inclusion (Point 15 of the draft agenda)**

51 Amendments have been tabled, the total number of amendments to be voted should be reduced following the adoption of 7 compromise amendments proposed by the rapporteur. The amendments range from calls to improve communication with the Roma people at all levels in order that the latter are aware of the possibilities now on offer. As the rapporteur points out in his original text, education is key to integrating the Roma population into the workplace and members call for increased efforts on the part of all concerned. Segregated and substandard housing must be integrated into the general housing plan and improved



in order to reduce poverty and social exclusion.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev	Consideration of draft opinion: 30 November 2010
Responsible administrator: Christian Chopin	Deadline for Ams: 8 December 2010
Procedure: 2010/2276(ini)-REGI7/04530)	Adoption REGI: 27 January 2011
Lead CommitteeLIBE	Planned adoption in LIBE 3 February 2011
	Planned plenary: April 2011

## **12. The EC 5th Cohesion Report and the Strategy for the post-2013 Cohesion Policy (Point 16 of the draft agenda)**

The report will be elaborated mainly on the basis of two following documents: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the regions and the European Investment Bank entitled: Conclusions of the fifth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion: the future of cohesion policy and the main document Investing in Europe's future: Fifth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion.

During the first debate the Rapporteur presents his Working Document that contains a first thorough analysis of the above documents, making an initial assessment and first comments.

An indicative structure of the report is also presented, indicating the main chapters and the topics to be covered. In his Working Document, the Rapporteur puts forward several questions (36 in total), that should be elaborated and analysed in the Report.

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>
Rapporteur: Markus Pieper	Exchange of views: 27/01/2011
Responsible administrator: Diana Haase	Consideration of draft report: 12/04/2010
Procedure:	Adoption REGI: 24-25/05/2011
	Plenary: 06/2011 (tbc)



## **PART II**

*Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meetings held on 9 December 2010*

### **1. Exchange of views with Mr Johannes Hahn, Commissioner on Regional Policy, on latest developments in Cohesion Policy (Point 3 of the draft agenda)**

As a follow-up of the 10th of November meeting with the Commissioner Hahn on the publication of the 5th Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion the Committee has organised a more extensive exchange of views with Mr Hahn on latest developments in Cohesion Policy.

In his presentation the Commissioner focused on the latest developments following the publication of the 5th Cohesion Report, as in that period the informal council meeting in Liege took place as well as the Commissioner participated in the Budgetary Control Committee meeting in the EP. As far as the budget discharge for 2009 is concerned there is a progress that should continue in 2010. There were 7 payments suspensions in 2009 and no single suspension in 2010 so far.

Concerning future Cohesion Policy the Commissioner emphasised that EU 2020 should be used as the basis and we need to start implementing it already in the current financial period. Furthermore, regional policy should cover all regions with the main task to reduce inequalities that hamper successful implementation of EU policies in the regions. As far as the future budget debate is concerned Mr Hahn assured the Commission's position that we need a sustainable budget and thanked the Members for their support. Another unsolved issue is the length of the next financial period and in his view 7 years is the optimal duration for cohesion policy.

The Commissioner reminded of a large public consultation with the Cohesion Forum in the end of January that will go on until the middle of the year. He stressed the role of Common Strategic Framework to be prepared for the next financial period for various funds and the fact that it is discussed in different parliamentary groups.

In the debate the Members raised questions concerning the structure of the future regulation (whether it should be separate funds or not) and the role for the regions such as the possibility of territorial pacts. Furthermore, the Members addressed the issue of length of financial framework, conditionality, especially applied externally to cohesion policy, performance reserve, the possibility of having regional policy covering all regions in the situation of limited budget resources, the danger of domination of national level through inter-state agreements instead of having Europe of regions, application of the partnership

principle, using additional indicators to GDP, future transitional system, the impact of financial crisis on the future funding, the place of urban policy in the future cohesion policy.

In his answers the Commissioner pointed at the problem of local levels complaining about the domination of regional ones. He also admitted that urban dimension of cohesion policy should be put more into the focus. Mr Hahn was not able to give precise responses regarding the timing for the presentation of the legislative package for the post 2013 period or to precise the legal instruments which would compose this package. Neither he was able to confirm whether there will be a single regulation for the ERDF and the CF or two as it is the case now. Mr Hahn did not give any details of the 'conditionality' in the future cohesion policy but he reminded that some sanction mechanisms already envisaged for cohesion policy have never been used. The Commissioner asked for the EP's support in order to have a suitable and sufficient financing of the policy for the next period.

At the end of the meeting Mr Hahn shortly presented the Danube Strategy that was adopted on the 8th of December emphasising that the European Commission regards the Baltic Sea and the Danube macro-regional strategies as experimental ones. Economic development, human resources, environmental situation are among the main priorities of the Danube strategy. The 3 "no"s principle (no new funding , no new structures, no new administration) should be continued and the first interim report is scheduled for 2012. At Members' request it was decided that the Commissioner will come back to the January ordinary meeting in order to continue the political dialogue.

## **2. Presentation of an external study on "The Inter-relationship between the Structural Funds and the Provision of Services of General Interest and Services of General Economic Interest, and the Potential for Cross-Border Service Delivery" (Point 4 of the draft agenda)**

Prof. Massimo Florio presented the study on Services of General Interest (SGI) in the 27 Member States and their regions and the scope of EU regional policy in their financing. The study offers a critical and comprehensive discussion about the inter-relationship between the Structural Funds (SF) and the provision of the SGI. More specifically, it provides a comparative analysis of the concepts, traditions, legislative frameworks and level of provision of SGI in the 27 Member States. The study shows that there is a strong relationship between the provision of SGI and the achievement of cohesion policy objectives and SF are a key element in providing lagging-behind areas and sectors with more and better services of general interest. Cross-border cooperation programmes should also be encouraged, especially with respect to the creation of trans-national transport, communication and energy networks.

During the discussion the Members raised questions about the differences in national traditions and legislation that have influence on the relation between the Cohesion Policy and SGI, the internal market and barriers for efficient use of Structural Funds for SGI, the role of telecommunication sector, still existing barriers to functioning of the internal market, etc.

## **3. Policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013 (Point 5 of the draft agenda)**

The SURE special committee was established with the main purpose to define Parliament's political priorities for the post-2013 multi-annual financial framework (MFF), both in legislative terms and budgetary terms.

For this purpose but also in order to define supporting measures to negotiate an interinstitutional agreement, the SURE Committee is gathering in a coordinated manner the opinions of the various committees concerned.

As called for in the European Parliament Resolution of 7 October 2010 on EU cohesion and regional policy after 2013, it is necessary that the regional dimension is fully considered in the review of the MFF and that a strong and well-financed EU regional policy, as a *conditio sine qua non* for achieving social, economic and territorial cohesion, is provided for.

During the meeting the rapporteur presented her draft opinion where she points to the increased importance of cohesion policy following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, and to the fact that a third pillar – territorial cohesion – has been added to it, and notes that the regions are best placed to implement that policy on an active basis and that sectoralisation is therefore counterproductive. Furthermore, she reminds that cohesion policy is an important component of the EU 2020 strategy. She also points out that the success of economic and social cohesion policy can be clearly seen in the 271 regions of the 27 Member States and notes that the subsidiarity principle and multilevel governance are fundamental prerequisites for that success. She also stresses that cohesion policy, which accounts for the largest individual budget, has been one of the EU's most significant and most successful policies for decades.

In the debate the Members addressed the need for more support in the future multiannual framework for cross-boarder cooperation, the length of the financial perspective, the possible sanction mechanisms in the future, the public awareness of the EU2020 strategy, simplification and result-orientation in the future cohesion policy, striking balance between different types of regions, new transitional arrangements, etc.

## **PART III - Other News**

*Here you will find the latest news related to Committee activities and cohesion policy issues*



### **Chair's participation on events on behalf of the Committee**

Ms Hübner has participated as a chairperson of the Committee in the following events since the last meeting:

<b>9 December</b> <b>15:00 - 17:00</b>	<b>Brussels, BE</b>	<b>" MEP Danube Forum "</b>	<b>Conference "EU Strategy for the Danube Region "</b>
<b>17 December</b>	<b>Warsaw</b>	<b>Assembly - Senat</b>	<b>Negotiation of Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020</b> (conference on: Parliamentary dimension of the Polish Presidency)

\* \* \*

Ms Hübner, representing the committee, has accepted so far an invitation to participate (during the coming weeks) in the following events:

<b>31 January</b>	<b>Brussels, BE</b>	<b>European Commission</b>	<b>Cohesion Forum</b>  <b>Session: Raising the effectiveness of EU Cohesion Policy</b>
<b>7 February</b>	<b>Warsaw, PL</b>	<b>Polish Ministry of Regional Development and International Committee on vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VaSAB)</b>	<b>MRR VASAB Integrated Approach to Spatial Development of Europe</b>  <b>Topic: "Origin and the essence of the concept of Territorial Cohesion"</b>



<p><b>9 February</b> <b>8-9 am</b></p>	<p><b>Brussels</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Loic Driebeek, President of SHV Gas asked to organise a breakfast for MEP to promote an initiative FREE: Future of Rural Energy in Europe.</b></p>	<p><b>"The importance of rural energy and its impact on regional development".</b></p>
--	------------------------	--	--

More information is available at the Chair's website <http://danuta-huebner.pl/> or with the secretariat.



### **New ESPON Report, ReRisk - Regions at Risk of Energy Poverty**

*ESPON, the European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion, releases the final report of the project ReRisk which focuses on opportunities to support competitive and clean energy supplies for regions in Europe and to generate and strengthen sustainable energy sources. It delivers future-oriented territorial evidence and scenarios on the impact of rising energy prices on the competitiveness of European regions as well as on cohesion in Europe in a long-term perspective.*

Energy seems to keep the EU agenda busy this year. Hungary is planning to concentrate on the EU energy policy while it takes on the EU's rotating presidency and energy will be the core theme at the new presidency's first EU summit on 4 February 2011. Hence the ReRisk Report seems to be just in time to feed the current political discussions with several policy recommendations addressing decision-makers. The recommendations aim at reducing regional vulnerability on the short term and improving adaptive regional capacity on the medium and long term.

Political pressure to fight energy poverty is mounting, but policy initiatives in this field are hampered by the lack of basic data on the energy consumption in European regions. The ReRisk Report, produced by INNOBASQUE as Lead Partner and Nordregio together with National Technical University of Athens as Project Partners, tries to fill this gap by presenting findings on the implications of energy poverty for economic competitiveness and social cohesion in the regions of the European Union.

The project clearly presents a unique approach and gives added value to policy makers by having an accent on the topic of energy use more than on energy production. It is the economic and transport structure, as well as the social situation and the climate conditions, which makes certain regions in Europe more vulnerable to energy poverty

than others.

The policy recommendations presented focus not just on energy policy but more on the intersections with other policy domains. Policy makers can use those recommendations with regard to security of supply, energy efficiency and environmental protections as well as to illustrate future paths for development.

Some of the headline findings are:

1. Urgent measures are needed to help the most vulnerable regional economies, mainly located in the Eastern part of Europe, to cope with the challenges of rising energy prices. Competitiveness is not only at stake in Eastern regions with industrial background or strong dependence on food processing, but also in the highly industrialized Northern periphery.
2. Remote regions in general have to prepare for higher prices for long distance travel and air transport, with negative impact on overall price levels and tourism, which is often an important source of employment in these regions.
3. By analysing the exposure to energy poverty on regional rather than on country level, a much clearer image of social disparities in Europe emerges. Even in the pre-crisis situation of 2005, the South–North and East–West divide in social terms persisted in the European Union and has most probably worsened since then.
4. The main challenge from the policy point of view is that of mobilizing the considerable potential for renewable energy sources in regions that lack the financial resources to do so and to coordinate a large set of policy instruments on local, regional, national and EU level to enhance access to energy efficiency measures, both for industries and households.

The report also shows that increasing prices for fossil fuels open up opportunities for the development of renewable energy resources and the creation of new sources of income and employment.

The ReRisk Final Report, its maps and all background documents are available at the [ESPON Website](#).

#### More information

The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory. ESPON shall support Cohesion Policy development with European wide, comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. In doing so, it shall facilitate the mobilisation of territorial capital and development opportunities, contributing to improving European competitiveness, to the widening and deepening of European territorial cooperation and to a sustainable and balanced development.

The Managing Authority responsible for the ESPON 2013 Programme is the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures of Luxembourg. More information: [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

## Library News

### Publications

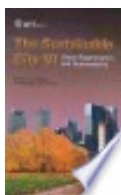


#### **European Planning Studies**, monthly

European Planning Studies focus upon specific spatial development problems, as well as emerging explanations of new urban, regional, national or supranational developmental tendencies.

Selected articles from vol. 19, issue 1, January 2011:

**(Re)defining the Euroregion Concept** / by Eduardo Medeirosa, pages 141 - 158 ([abstract](#); for the full text please contact the [Library](#) )



**The sustainable city VI: urban regeneration and sustainability** / C. A Brebbia, S Hernandez and E Tiezzi. Southampton: WIT, 2010. 718 p.

This book contains papers presented at The Sustainable City 2010 conference, which was the sixth edition of the International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability. That event followed the very successful meetings held previously in Rio (2000), Segovia (2002), Siena (2004), Tallinn (2006) and Skiathos (2008). This series of conferences addresses the multidisciplinary aspects of urban planning, a result of the increasing size of the cities, the amount of resources and services required and the complexity of modern society. (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))



**German Annual of Spatial Research and Policy 2009: New Disparities in Spatial Development in Europe** / Kilper, Heiderose (Ed.), Springer, 2009, 203 p.

This book gives a detailed picture of the concept of spatial disparities and the discussion of new spatial disparities in Europe. Following an overview of the process of formulating a European position on "territorial cohesion", some issues surrounding new spatial disparities at different levels in different European countries are examined, such as spatial patterns of suburbanisation processes, demographic transformation or equal ecological living conditions in the European Union. (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))



**Urban-rural interactions: towns as focus points in rural development** / by Eveline van Leeuwen. — Heidelberg: Physica; London: Springer, 2010, 177 p.

The aim of this study is to contribute to the understanding of the current function of towns in Europe in general and in the Netherlands more specifically. By using both micro- and macro-approaches, the multifaceted relationships between town-hinterland and the rural economy are explored at different spatial levels and for different actors, in particular for households, farms and firms. (Available in the Library - make a reservation [here](#))

### Library Key Issues



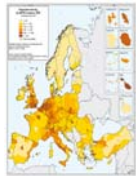
### [The EU Strategy for the Danube Region](#) / Sorina Ionescu, 2010

The Danube Strategy provides a sustainable framework for policy integration and coherent development of the Danube Region. This area is considered as a "macro-region" on the basis of its common challenges and opportunities, its common heritage and its common future. On 8 December 2010, the European Commission adopted the EU Strategy for the Danube Region following a request from Member States. The Strategy takes the form of a Communication and an Action Plan which will be reviewed regularly. Implementation of the Strategy will start following endorsement by Member States during the Hungarian Presidency of the EU in April 2011.



### [The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea - one year on](#) / Anna Schober and Sorina Ionescu, 2011

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was adopted by the European Council in October 2009. Still being at the early stage of implementation, first results and assessments of the one-year old strategy have been published. The strategy involves eight EU Member States (Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Denmark), Norway and Russia.



### [The EU Islands](#) / Sorina Ionescu, 2010

In addition to the challenges common to other EU regions, EU islands have to deal with their specific handicaps. However, there is no EU insular law or specific funds for islands, except for outermost regions. Moreover, the definition of island regions remains controversial. Nevertheless, EU islands can use the available EU funds to tackle sustainable development. The future of cohesion policy is still uncertain, with the European Commission refusing supplementary funds for islands, while island representatives continue to press for special treatment, with adapted instruments.

## Latest analysis



### ["Is EU Structural Measures spending on the supply of water for domestic consumption used to best effect?"](#) / Court of Auditors, special report no 9, December 2010, 68 p.

The Court's audit focused on domestic water supply infrastructures co-financed under the EU Structural Measures during the 2000–2006 programme period in Spain, Greece, Portugal and Italy, the main recipients of EU funding in this area. These infrastructures aim at increasing the availability of water, improving the quality of the water distributed and the efficiency of the supply systems. The objective of the audit was to assess whether the most appropriate solutions were adopted, the co-financed projects were successful and the objectives have been achieved at the lowest cost to the EU budget.